



(Red-lined Version) PLANT PATENT
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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PLANT PATENT

for

CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED 'STARLET PINK'

by

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This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/421,387, filed October 25, 2002.

LATIN NAME OF THE GENUS AND SPECIES

Botanical classification: *Chrysanthemum morifolium*.

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VARIETY DENOMINATION

The new Chrysanthemum variety denomination is 'Starlet Pink.'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum botanically known as *Chrysanthemum morifolium*, and referred to by the cultivar name 'Starlet Pink.'

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'Starlet Pink,' identified as 30912-0, originated from a cross made in a controlled breeding program in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom. The female parent of the new variety is an undistributed, unpatented seedling identified as 'G15E2.' The male parent of the new variety is the unpatented variety known as 'Leyla.' The new variety 'Starlet Pink' has been asexually reproduced by vegetative cuttings in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom and the distinguishing characteristics are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

'Starlet Pink' is a garden type of Chrysanthemum plant variety having a domed – round habit carrying a uniform canopy of small pink single flowers.

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Comparison with Female Parent

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' are similar to the parent variety 'G15E2' in plant habitat and growth rate. In side-by-side comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' differed from plants of the parent 'G15E2' in the following characteristics.

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1. The new variety 'Starlet Pink' produces pale pink flowers whereas the parent 'G15E2' produces purple flowers.

2. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' have a more domed and round habit than plants of the parent 'G15E2.'
3. Flowers of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' are larger than flowers of the parent variety 'G15E2.'

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Comparison with Male Parent

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' are similar to the parent 'Leyla' in plant habitat and growth rate. In side-by-side comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' differed from plants of the parent 'Leyla' in the following

10 characteristics.

1. The new variety 'Starlet Pink' produces pale pink flowers whereas the parent 'Leyla' produces yellow flowers.
2. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' have a more round domed habit than plants of the parent 'Leyla.'
- 15 3. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' are less vigorous than plants of the parent 'Leyla.'

Comparison with Other Varieties

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' are dissimilar to the unpatented but distributed variety 'Dove' in plant habit and growth rate. In side-by-side

20 comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' differed from plants of the variety 'Dove' in the following characteristics.

1. The new variety 'Starlet Pink' produces pale pink flowers whereas 'Dove' produces deeper pink flowers.
- 25 2. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' have shorter and less inflorescence than plants of the variety 'Dove.'
3. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' are less vigorous than plants of the variety 'Dove.'

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATION

Typical specimens of the plant and flowers for the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' are shown in the accompanying digital photograph. The colors shown are as true as possible within the usual limits of this kind of illustration. Figure 1 is a whole
 5 plant view of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' grown in a pot. The plant shown in the illustration is 70 days from the commencement of planting outdoors in mid-June.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following description of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' is of plants grown outside, natural season, in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom in the
 10 month of June. The cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in the environment such as temperature, length of day and light intensity, without any variance in genotype. The commercial classification of the new variety is a garden Chrysanthemum.

Plants of the new variety have been grown successfully under temperature
 15 conditions averaging about 50°F at night and about 65°F to 75°F during the day under natural light conditions. The plants were grown outdoors in mid-June in 4 liter pots using a loamless compost. No growth retardants were used. To produce a commercial product the plants may be pinched once with the center bud removed. The typical container size for commercial growth is 4 liter (8"). It has been observed that the shelf life of the new
 20 variety is about 25 days with a response time of about 10 weeks natural season. The new variety is suitable for growth in a temperature range of 50°F to 75°F.

The new variety may be produced as a pot plant. The following description is with respect to a plant produced as a garden pot plant. In the description of this new Chrysanthemum variety, color values have been taken from the Royal Horticultural
 25 Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.C.C.).

Plant

Plant type: Pot

Habit: Domed - Round

Height: 50 cm

30 Width: 50 cm

Branching characteristics: Free Branching.

Length of Lateral Branches: 14-27 cm

Number of Breaks from Pinch: 7-11

Stem Color: near 137A

5 Response Time: 70 days natural season

Vigor: Medium

Shelf Life: 25 days

Disease (Susceptibility/Resistance observed): None observed to date

Pest (Susceptibility/Resistance observed): None observed to date

10 Growth retardant type and treatment: No treatment necessary

The plants were grown for 10 weeks in natural season conditions.

Propagation:

Type: Vegetative via Stem Cuttings

15 *Time to rooting:* 12 days with soil temperatures of 70° F

Rooting habit: Fine and Fibrous

Foliage

Number of Leaves Per Lateral Branch: 8-10

Compound or single: Single

20 Arrangement of Leaves: Alternate

Shape of Leaf: Typically 5 lobed ovate

Size of Leaf: *Width* (cm): 1-1.5 *Length* (cm): 2-4

Leaf Apex: Rounded

Base: Cordate

25 Attachment: Petioled

Aspect: Slightly Undulating

Margin: Palmately Lobed

Surface characteristics: *Top: Slightly Pubescent*

Bottom: Slightly Pubescent

Petiole: *Color: near 138B*

5 *Length: 0.8-1.2 cm*

Venation: Net prominent mid vein at underside

Color: upper side: near 136B

under side: near 136C

Color: Mature Leaf, *upper side: near 137A; under side: near 137C*

10 Young Leaf, *upper side: near 137A; under side: near 137C*

Flower

Flower appearance: Matte

Flower type: Single

Flower form: Flat

15 Flower shape: Round

Flowering habit: Cyme

Number of blossoms per branch: 12-15

Inflorescence form: Corymbose

Depth of fully expanded blossoms: 1 cm

20 Diameter of fully expanded blossoms: 2.5-3.5 cm

Phyllaries: *Number: 23-25*

Color: near 138A

Length: 4-7 mm

Width: 1-1.5 mm

25 *Texture/Appearance: Pubescent*

Pedicel: *Length: terminal: 8 cm; lateral: 11 cm*

Color: near 138B

Surface: Pubescent

Habit: Straight/Slightly Curving

- Strength*: Medium
- Ray florets: *Form/Shape*: Straight
Texture/Appearance: Matte
Number per flower: 50-60
5 *Length*: 1 – 1.5 cm; *Width*: 3–5 mm
Apex: Round
Base: Tubular
Margin: Entire
- Disc florets: *Form/Shape*: Cylindrical
10 *Texture/Appearance*: Shiny
Number per flower: 130-150
Length: 4-6 mm; *Width*: <1 mm
Diameter of disc: 1.2 cm
- Fragrance: None observed
- 15 Flower Bud (at onset of color):
Length: 1 cm
Diameter: 0.8-1 cm
Form/Shape: Globular
- 20 General flower color:
1. Ray florets, *upper side*:
Immature: near 55C
Mature: near 36D
Older/Fading: near 36D
- 25 2. Ray florets, *under side*:
Immature: near 55C
Mature: near 36D
Older/Fading: near 36D
- 30 3. Disc florets:
Immature: near 7A

Mature: near 17B

Older/Fading: near 17C

4. Bud: 39A

Flower progression with age: Flower color deepens uniformly with age and the flowers
5 become slightly cupped shape.

Reproductive Organs

Gynoecium present on Ray and Disc florets.

Ray florets per individual flower:

Pistil number: 35-40 observed

10 *Stigma color:* near 144D

Stigma shape: Forked

Style color: near 144D

Style length: 1-2 mm

Disc florets per individual flower:

15 *Pistil number:* 120-130

Stigma color: 144D

Stigma shape: Forked

Style color: near 144D

Style length: 2 mm

20 Androecium present on Disc florets only.

Stamen number: 20-25 observed

Anther shape: Ovoid

Anther color: near 14C

Pollen color: near 12A

25 *Pollen quantity:* Slight

Fruit and Seeds: None observed

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A new and distinct variety of Chrysanthemum plant, substantially as described and illustrated herein.

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ABSTRACT

A new variety of Chrysanthemum plant named 'Starlet Pink,' having a uniform domed and round habit. The new variety produces a uniform canopy of small pink single flowers and good foliage.

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